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Rick Steves' European Christmas



Synopsis

Rick Steves, America's expert on Europe, teams up with co-author Valerie Griffith to explore the rich and fascinating mix of traditions—Christian, pagan, musical, and edible—that led to the Christmas festivities we enjoy today. Rick brings home an authentic, surprising portrait of holiday celebrations in England, Norway, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. Romans cook up eels, Salzburgers shoot off guns, Germans buy "prune people" at markets, Norwegian kids hope to win marzipan pigs, and Parisians ice-skate on the Eiffel Tower. With thoughtful insights, vibrant photos, and more than a dozen recipes, this great gift book captures the spirit of the season. It's a delightful way to learn something new—and old—about Christmas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Europe Through the Back Door—in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle—Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans.

Rick Steves' new edition of his classic European Christmas book will be a hit with his fans and an eye-opener for those not familiar with his work. It takes the reader on a journey across Europe to reveal the food, decorations, songs, and celebrations of its many countries. The book is lavishly and beautifully illustrated and includes all of the European Christmas traditions from his earlier work, both the book and the PBS special. Also included are recipes and quirky tidbits such as Santa Claus' family tree--for real ! I gave three copies to people unfamiliar with Rick's fine work and all were amazed and delighted. This book will make a wonderful gift and would be a fine addition to your family's own Christmas traditions.

First, let me say that this book may be a bit smaller than you think it is. I was expecting a larger coffee table style book, and it is smaller. However, it made up for this in content. It explains the story of Christmas, along with an explanation for where "XMas" first came from, which as you will read does not take the Christ out of Christmas. I appreciated the history of all the different historical and mythical figures that eventually turned into the Santa Claus that we all know in North America. That was just the first few chapters! The rest of the book takes us into different cultures to see how they celebrate the Holiday Season and their unique traditions that are passed down throughout generations. Overall, it is a very informative book, and a nice one to keep on the table to read a chapter or two when you feel like it.

A nice companion to the DVD of the same title. Full of interesting facts on how Christmas is celebrated (or not celebrated, i.e. Paris) around Europe.

Another excellent book from Rick Steves. It talks about the Christmas markets, European traditions, and even some Christmas recipes.

A wonderful book to read and reread every Christmas. Has Christmas recipes and art projects as well.

This will be a treasured part of my Christmas book collection. Reading it just fills me with good Christmas feelings.

Rick Steves is always great

Beautiful and interesting

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